

Attorney Docket No.: PATENT
NEI-00103

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| In re Application of: |) | Group Art Unit: |
| Gary R. McLuen et al. |) | Examiner: |
| Serial No.: |) | |
| Filed: herewith |) | <u>PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT</u> |
| For: MULTI-WELL ROTARY SYNTHESIZER |) | 260 Sheridan Avenue, Suite 420 |
| |) | Palo Alto, CA 94306 |
| |) | (650) 833-0160 |

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the subject application as follows:

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

After the title and before the first line, please insert --This is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/097,966, filed June 16, 1998, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-23 and 27-34.

Please amend the following claims:

24. (Amended) A purging system configured for use with a synthesizer containing a first bank of vials and a second bank of vials wherein the first bank of vials has a first drain and the second bank of vials has a second drain, the purging system comprising:

- a. a pressurizing system for creating a pressure differential within a selective one of the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials; and
- b. a first waste tube capable of [coupling with] engaging a selective one of the first drain to purge material from the first bank of vials and the second drain to purge material from the second bank of vials.

26. (Amended) The purging system according to claim 24 further comprising a second waste tube capable of selectively [coupling with] engaging the first drain to purge the material from the first bank of vials and the second drain to purge the material from the second bank of vials wherein the purging system is capable of selectively and simultaneously purging the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials.

Please add the following new claims:

35. (New) A purging system configured for use with a synthesizer containing a first bank of vials and a second bank of vials wherein the first bank of vials has a first drain and the second bank of vials has a second drain, the purging system comprising:

- a. means for generating a pressure differential within a selective one of the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials; and
- b. means for purging for engaging a selective one of the first drain for purging material from the first bank of vials and the second drain to purge material from the second bank of vials.

36. (New) The purging system according to claim 35 further comprising means for sealing coupled to the means for purging for generating a flexible seal between the means for purging and the selective one of the first drain and the second drain.

37. (New) The purging system according to claim 36 wherein the means for sealing includes a drain seal.

38. (New) The purging system according to claim 35 wherein the means for purging includes a first waste tube.

39. (New) The purging system according to claim 38 wherein the means for purging further includes a second waste tube capable of selectively engaging the first drain to purge the material from the first bank of vials and the second drain to purge the material from the second bank of vials wherein the purging system is capable of selectively and simultaneously purging the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials.

40. (New) The purging system according to claim 35 wherein the means for generating includes a pressurizing system.

41. (New) A purging system configured to use with a synthesizer, the synthesizer including a first bank of vials having a first drain and a second bank of vials having a second drain, the purging system comprising:

- a. a pressurizing system to generate a pressure differential within a selective one of the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials;
- b. a first waste tube capable of engaging a selective one of the first drain to purge material from the first bank of vials and the second drain to purge material from the second bank of vials; and
- c. a drain seal coupled to the first waste tube for generating a flexible seal between the first waste tube and the selective one of the first drain and the second drain.

42. (New) The purging system according to claim 41 further comprising a second waste tube capable of selectively engaging the first drain to purge the material from the first bank of vials and the second drain to purge the material from the second bank of vials wherein the

purging system is capable of selectively and simultaneously purging the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials.

REMARKS

This case is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/097,966 filed on June 16, 1998 which was subject to a Restriction Requirement. The Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above preliminary amendment. By this preliminary amendment applicants have cancelled Claims 1-23 and 27-34 and added the new Claims 35-42. Accordingly, after the above preliminary amendment Claims 24-26 and 35-42 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 833-0160 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: December 19, 2000

By: Jonathan O. Owens
Jonathan O. Owens
Reg. No.: 37,902
Attorneys for Applicants